178. Public Service.

MR. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod taluk*) said that corruption was rampant in the Police, Judicial, Registration and Revenue Departments. In a previous session of the Assembly, the then Dewan said that, unless the people co-operated with Government by giving specific instances and affording proof, it was not possible for Government to put down corruption. But the onus was upon Government to make confidential enquiries and obtain evidence in the matter. The existence of malpractices in the several departments was due to the laxity of controlling officers. Inadequacy of pay was another contributory cause. The Law's Delays Committee should make a special enquiry and suggest measures for avoiding corruption in the Judicial Department. As regards the other departments, a committee, consisting of official and non-official members, should be appointed to make enquiries and to prescribe remedies.

Speaking about the administration of the Police Department, the member suggested that Head Constables should not be promoted as Inspectors. The pay of the Constables and Head Constables should be enhanced. Constables and police officers used to ill-treat people on the complaint of petitioners. The practice should be stopped.

The acceptance of the principle of communal representation would impair the morale and efficiency of public service. Appointments should be made with due regard to character and ability. The possession of a university degree was not presumptive evidence that the person concerned was qualified for entertainment in public service.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Narayana Pillai, there are one or two more members who propose to speak on the same subject. I shall hear them all and then give a collective reply.

However, before you go back to your seat, I may tell you that I am thankful for the several suggestions that you have made in your representation.

179. The Travancore Public Service.

MR. P. R. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kottarakara taluk*) said that there was much uneasiness in the State at the rising tide of unemployment among the educated classes. Simultaneously with that, there was also an agitation for the equitable distribution of appointments among the various communities and sub-communities, as the idea had taken root in the popular mind that the sole means of earning livelihood was to be in the employ of Government. All that was due to the prevailing system of education which produced a class of persons who were fit only for a single profession. The sure, safe and easy method of solving the unemployment problem was to introduce technical and industrial education in the curricula of studies in schools and colleges.

Government should lay down a definite principle for the distribution of appointments and follow it without turning either to the right or to the left. Appointments and promotions should be made solely in considerations of efficiency. The distribution of appointments on a

communal basis impaired the tone and efficiency of public service. Officers of proved ability should be given every encouragement even if it involved the supersession of the claims of others. In other words, promotions should be earned and not given. The above solutions held the promise of better opportunities both for the officers and for the public in whose interests they were supposed to work.

In an earlier session of the Assembly, the then Dewan said that corruption did not exist in the Travancore public service in any appreciable degree. It required more than a denial or protest in the Assembly or in the Legislative Council to rid the public mind of the belief that corruption did exist in the State. If a departmental subordinate took bribes, the head of the department shielded him if they both belonged to the same community. The public service should be purged of its corrupt officers. The existence of corruption was due to the familiar reason that the officers could not live on their pay. The salary of the several officers and several grades of officers should therefore be increased.

Constables and Head Constables should be given scales of pay mounting up to Rs. 20 and Rs. 30 respectively.

The pay of Stationary Magistrates was too low. Those officers should be classified into two grades, those in the first grade being given Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 and the others Rs. 125 to Rs. 150.

In public service, the sex discrimination was fast vanishing. Physical limitations, however, stood in the way of women entering all departments. They should be entertained only in the Registration, Medical and Education departments.

The Press Regulation should be withdrawn.

When the member for the Quilon taluk observed during his representation that there was inordinate delay in the filling up of vacancies in the various departments, the Dewan said that if in previous administrations there had been delay, it would be a feature of the existing administration also. There was no justification, however, for delay in making appointments.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Parameswaran Pillai, you dealt with so many subjects that I find it difficult to fix upon those to which I should reply. As to your general remarks about corruption, as I told Mr. Narayana Pillai, I shall give a reply after the other members who propose to speak on the subject have also spoken.

There are, however, one or two points which you mentioned that I should like to deal with separately. One was that you wanted the salary of several officers and several grades of officers to be raised. Nobody would say that it is not a very good motive that urges you to make that representation, and nobody can take exception to the principle that you have enunciated that officers even in the lowest grades must have at least adequate salaries, decent salaries. That suggestion of yours has, however, to be considered in relation to another matter which is also important in the case of Government, that is, in its relation to financial considerations. Subject to those considerations, I may tell you that I am quite in sympathy with the suggestion that you have made,

Then there is one matter, which is more or less personal, that you referred to. That relates to some statement I made about delays, in reply to a representation. It seems to me that you have misunderstood what I have said. I did not say that, if in previous administrations there has been delay, then the policy of this administration should be one of delay. That was not what I said. If I remember right, what I meant was that some of these delays which were complained of were delays not caused after I came here, but delays of postings and confirmations that were left pending long before I came in. At the same time, I remember to have said in that reply that it will be my endeavour to do things in the administration as speedily and as promptly as possible.

Then there is one other point too which I might dispose of now. You said that the present system of education is greatly to be blamed for the troubles that you complained of as existing in Travancore. Well, that is a subject upon which almost everybody has something to say. It is a matter which is receiving the earnest attention of Government too.

180. Need for adequate representation of all communities in public service.

REV. PAULOSE SCARIA KATHANAR (*Muvattupuzha taluk*) said that some important communities were under-represented in public service. It was seen from the lists of appointments placed before the Legislative Council that in recent years appointments were made in absolute disregard of the claims of those communities. Even the criticisms made in the Legislative Council and in the Assembly failed to operate as a corrective. The G. O. issued by Government was not followed in the various departments. It was pitiable that even in the departments presided over by foreigners, the unrepresented communities found few places. They should have members of unrepresented communities as their personal assistants and office managers. In Mysore and Madras, the principle of communal representation was always followed. The Government should insist that all communities should be represented in the various departments in proportion to their numerical strength. In conclusion, the member expressed his good wishes for the gentlemen seated on the *dais* of the Assembly hall.

The acting incumbents in the various departments and offices should be given increments of pay.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Scaria Kathanar, നിങ്ങളുടെ വിലയേറിയ നിവേദനത്തിൽ ഉദ്യോഗമാനവിഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റി പൊതുവായിട്ടുപറഞ്ഞു. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഇനിയും ഒന്നുരണ്ടുപേർക്കുടി സംസാരിക്കാനുണ്ട്. അതെല്ലാം കേട്ട ഒടുവിൽ സമാധാനംപറയാം.